

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307252  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DEREUTHER:LF  
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R 202055Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 307252

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM RA AND ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BFOL, SY, PINS

SUBJECT: TEAR GAS GRENADES AND LAUNCHERS

REF: A) DAMASCUS 7229 B) STATE 298332

1. SINCE YOUR OFFICIAL-INFORMAL OF NOVEMBER 24 TO ATHERTON  
CROSSED REF B, WE WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON THIS  
WHOLE MATTER. REF B WAS, OF COURSE, IN RESPONSE TO REF A,  
AND A CONFIRMATION OF OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS HERE.

2. WE DISCERN A DEFINITE INTEREST ON THE SYRIAN SIDE FOR  
THESE MATERIALS AND ONLY WONDER IF SHIHABI MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
KEPT IN THE DARK. THE INDICATIONS IN REF A, ALONG WITH  
USDAO 559 OF 14 OCTOBER 1976 AND USDAO 568 OF 14 OCTOBER  
1976 ALL POINT TO SARG INTEREST IN ACQUIRING TEAR GAS  
GRENADES AND LAUNCHERS. IN MID-OCTOBER 1976 THE DEPARTMENT  
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EVEN RECEIVED A QUERY FROM THE AAI CORPORATION, BALTIMORE,  
MARYLAND, WHICH STATED THAT THE COMPANY HAD INFORMATION  
THAT SARG WANTED TO BUY TEAR GAS GRENADES FOR THE SYRIAN  
POLICE. DAMASCUS 5387 SUGGESTED THAT SARG SECURITY SERVICES  
WERE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION,  
A TIPOFF PERHAPS THAT A DESIRE FOR TEAR GAS WAS DEVELOPING.

3. APPROACHES TO THE U.S. PROBABLY STEM FROM THE STRONG REPUTATION FOR RELIABILITY, SAFETY AND QUALITY WHICH U.S. TEAR GAS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT ENJOY OVER OTHER PRODUCERS.

4. WE PRESENTLY HAVE NO APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT OF TEAR GAS TO SYRIA. REF B WAS DESIGNED TO CONFIRM THAT WE WOULD APPROVE MODEST SALES FOR BONAFIDE USE, SO THAT EMBASSY COULD RESPOND TO A QUERY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RIOT CONTROL, EXPORT CONTROLS, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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